GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1940
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2005
ASSISTANCE FROM USA FOR BIO TECHNOLOGY
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is comtemplating to seek cooperation from U.S.A. in the field of bio-technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c)

(c) whether any talks have been held between the two countries in this regard;

(d)

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken following the aforesaid talks ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes, Sir. In addition to the ongoing cooperation with USA in the areas of Contraceptive and Reproductive Health Research (CRHR), Vaccine Action Programme (VAP), Agriculture Biotechnology, Brain Research and a new arrangement proposed to be signed soon in the area of Vision Research, the Government of India and USA are seeking for increased cooperation in the field of biotechnology.

(b), (c) & (d) The US Department of Commerce has forwarded a proposal for `Enhanced US-India biotechnology cooperation` under the High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG). The proposal has emerged out of the HTCG meeting held in Washington on 15th June, 2005. Hon`ble Minister for State (S&T) and the Secretary, Department of Biotechnology participated in the meeting. The main areas for cooperative activities as suggested in the above mentioned proposal include strengthening of patent protection in India; encouraging the commercialization of research in India; discussion on export control related to biological and chemical items; expanding US-India cooperation in transgenic agriculture; and facilitating US-India cooperation in clinical research.

Talks are going on for cooperation in the areas of stem cell research, genomics and proteomics. A dialogue has already been initiated in these areas. A joint Indo-US workshop on `research and development in genomics covering health, agriculture and industry` was held in Bangalore, India in September, 2003.

(e) The proposal for the `Enhanced US-India biotechnology cooperation` forwarded to the Government of India in July 2005, is under discussion and consideration. However, the proposed statement of intent on the Indo-US collaboration on expansion of Vision Research has been approved by both the Governments.